Appendix B

Selection of DRECP Proposed Covered Species: Process and Methods

B SELECTION OF DRECP PROPOSED COVERED SPECIES: PROCESS AND METHODS

This appendix describes the development process and methods for the creation of the proposed Covered Species List for this document and a summary of the Covered Species List process associated with earlier DRECP publications. The Covered Species List is being developed through an iterative planning process incorporating input from agency experts and reviews from the public, stakeholders, and independent scientists, using best professional judgment of available information on species ecology and life history. The proposed Covered Species List will continue to be evaluated and revised until lead agency approval of the final DRECP (and thereafter by amendment to the DRECP).

Proposed Covered Species would be "covered" under the DRECP's conservation strategy and include those taxa addressed in the DRECP for which the applicants will seek permits for incidental or unintentional take resulting from Covered Activities under one or more of the following statutes: Section 2835 of the Natural Community Conservation Planning Act (NCCPA), Section 10 of the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the Eagle Act. The DRECP must address each Covered Species according to NCCPA and ESA standards and golden eagles under the Eagle Act. For a review of regulatory considerations related to Covered Species, please see the online Covered Species Tutorial.[1]

B.1 Early DRECP Covered Species List Process (2010 Through Mid-2012)

Various Covered Species lists or taxa of concern have been proposed and revised throughout the DRECP's development in an iterative process. In May 2010, the *DRECP Planning Agreement*[2] included a list of Species of Planning Interest, which was developed by the Renewable Energy Action Team (REAT) agencies during the initial stages of the DRECP. In October 2010, the Independent Science Advisors (ISA) provided recommendations for revisions to the Planning Agreement list, including corrections, additions, and deletions. In November 2010, the REAT agencies included a list of taxa of potential concern in the *Natural Communities and Covered Species Preliminary Description for the DRECP*.[3] This list of taxa was based on the Planning Agreement list and ISA recommendations (as described above), as well as wildlife agency (*i.e.*, California Department of Fish and Wildlife [CDFW] and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS]) occurrence data (*e.g.*, California Natural Diversity Database [CNDDB]). In October 2011, the draft DRECP *Preliminary Conservation Strategy* included a proposed covered and planning

1 www.drecp.org/meetings/2011-07-13_meeting/presentations/DRECP_Covered_Species_Tutorial.pdf
2 www.energy.ca.gov/2009publications/REAT-1000-2009-034/REAT-1000-2009-034-F.PDF
3 www.drecp.org/meetings/2010-11-17_meeting/presentations/DRECP_Covered_Species_Preliminary_Description.pdf

species list.[4] In December 2012, the DRECP "interim document" (*Description and Comparative Evaluation of Draft DRECP Alternatives*) included a Covered Species List.[5]

Early in the plan development process, DRECP agencies assembled the DRECP Stakeholder Committee with representatives from the renewable energy industry and advocacy groups, environmental groups, electric utilities, REAT agencies, other federal land management entities, counties, a Native American organization, outdoor recreation groups, and other interest groups. Working groups, including a Covered Species Working Group (hereafter referred to as "Stakeholder Covered Species Working Group"), were established within the Stakeholder Committee to provide a forum for focused discussion of key planning issues.

In late 2010, the Stakeholder Covered Species Working Group developed a species "filtering" tool, whereby all potentially occurring special-status plant and wildlife species (greater than 600 taxa at that time) would be evaluated according to a series of criteria (referred to as "species filters", which are described below in "Master Species List and Filtering") to determine if they should be carried forward for consideration as Covered Species. This species filtering tool formed the basis for subsequent Covered Species List work.

Additional background on the process and Covered Species List work prior to 2012 is summarized in documents and workshop presentations posted on www.drecp.org (in particular, see the documents and presentations associated with the 13 July 2011 and 17 November 2010 DRECP Stakeholder Committee Meetings[6]).

B.2 Proposed Covered Species List Development (Late 2012 Through Late 2013)

In late 2012, an interagency technical expert group, referred to as the Covered Species Group, was assembled and tasked with recommending taxa to be designated as Covered Species in the DRECP. The Covered Species Group consisted of biologists from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), CDFW, California Energy Commission (CEC), and USFWS. The remainder of this appendix describes the process and methods the Covered Species Group used to arrive at the proposed Covered Species List that was posted at www.drecp.org/documents/resources.html on 17 June 2013, also referred to later as the "June 2013 list." Exhibit B-1 provides a simplified overview of the process.

A Microsoft Excel workbook (Draft_DRECP_Covered_Species_Summary.xlsx) containing all taxa evaluated for this exercise, species filter results, and brief rationale for coverage decisions will be posted at www.drecp.org/whatisdrecp/species.html. Any future or

4 www.drecp.org/documents/docs/preliminary_conservation_strategy/index.php
5 www.drecp.org/documents/#eval
6 www.drecp.org/meetings/

updated analysis files will be posted to the same web location. Attachment A at the end of this appendix contains a condensed version of this workbook with information on taxa covered in 2013 or 2014.

Note that in mid-2014, agency managers removed 13 taxa from the Covered Species List and moved two other taxa to a Planning Species List. See Section I.3 for an explanation of changes made in June 2014 and Planning Species definition. For information about future updates to the proposed Covered Species List, see section "Final Analysis and DRECP Agency Review", below.

A) Master Species List and Filtering

The Covered Species Group supplemented the species lists described in Section I with taxa recommended by the Independent Science Panel (ISP 2012), December 2012 CNDDB data, and additional taxa suggested by stakeholders, planning documents, and external reviews from 2009 through early 2013. Updates to taxonomic nomenclature and removal of duplicate taxonomic entries were performed. This exercise resulted in a starting taxonomic inventory, hereafter referred to as the "Master Species List". The following three species filters were then employed sequentially to help identify taxa within the Master Species List to be evaluated in more detail. Note that individual filter and analysis references to 'Yes' and 'No' in this appendix do not necessarily reflect the ultimate rationale to include or exclude taxa on or from the proposed Covered Species List. Rather, these references describe whether taxa were further considered.

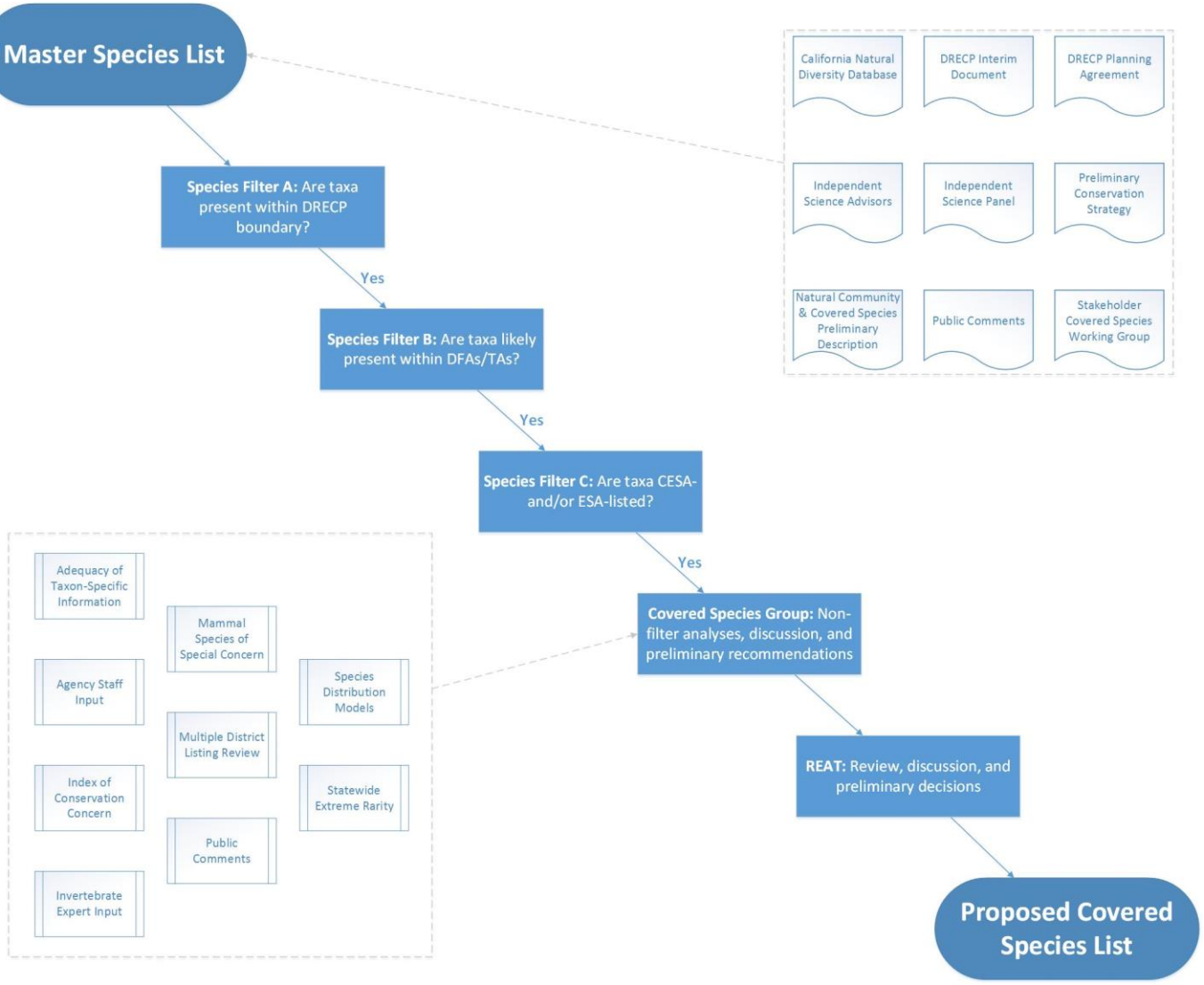
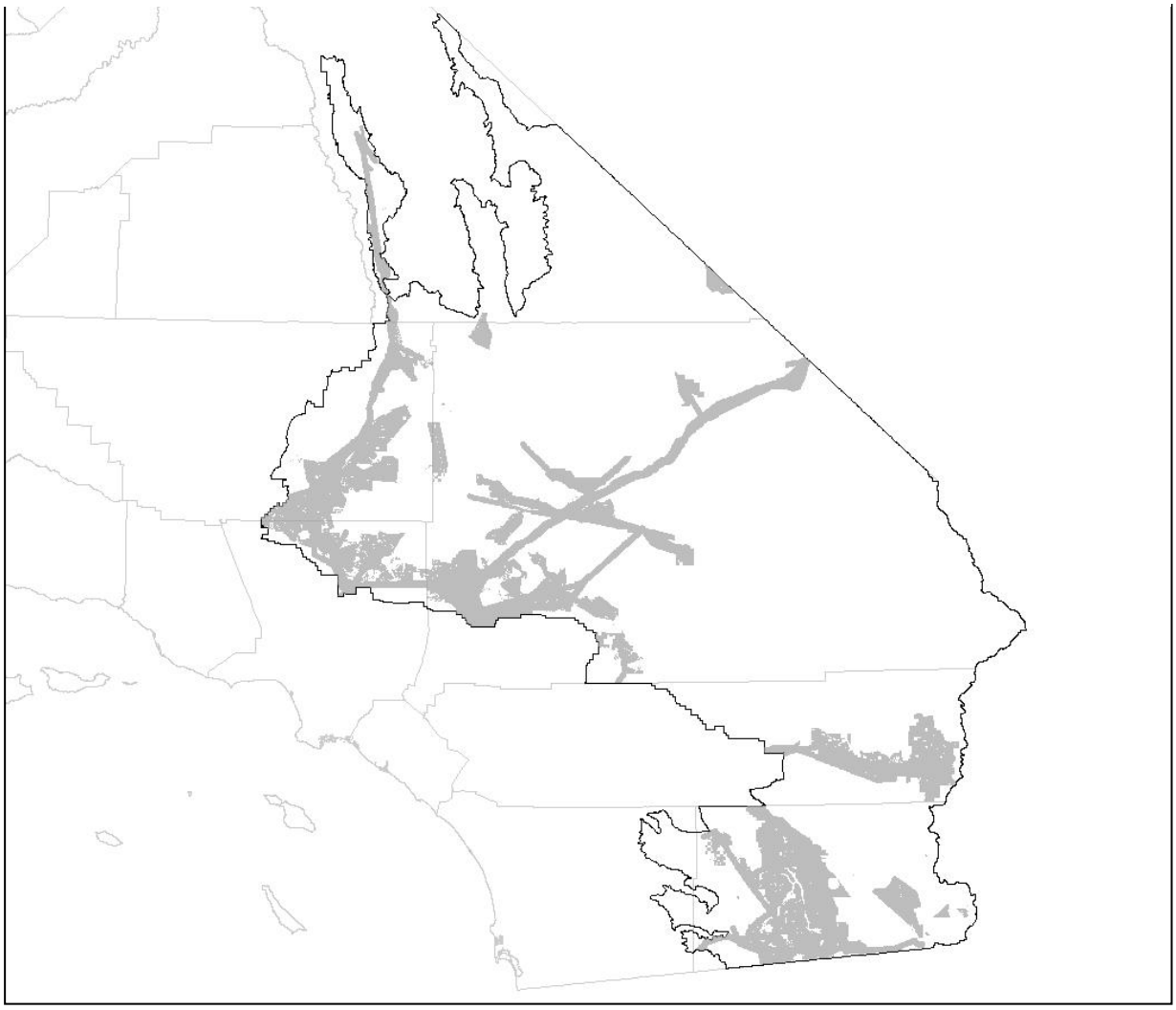


Exhibit B-1 Overview of Covered Species Process. Acronyms: CESA = California Endangered Species Act, DFAs = Development Focus Areas, TAs = Transmission Areas

Species Filter A: Are taxa present within the DRECP boundary? Staff performed a spatial analysis on CNDDB records and the Plan Area using a Geographic Information System (GIS). Exhibit B-2 illustrates the DRECP GIS layer used with Species Filters A and B. Polygons (including buffered points), located partially or completely within the Plan Area, were assigned 'Yes' in summary Microsoft Excel spreadsheets, while records completely outside of the Plan Area were assigned 'No', and taxa in the Master Species List that had no CNDDB records were left blank.

Exhibit B-2. Plan Area Boundary (dark line) and Combined DFAs/TAs (dark gray area) used for Species Filters A and B.



Due to underreporting of occurrence data and because some taxa analyzed currently have no designated special status, the CNDDB possesses no records for multiple taxa known to occur in the Plan Area. Staff error-checked all 'No' and blank records by utilizing REAT

agency knowledge of the region and consulting the following literature and online sources to help determine the potential presence of each taxon within the Plan Area:

Taxonomic Group	Main References
All taxa	www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/WAP/ eol.org
Amphibians	Peterson Guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians (3rd edition)
Birds	ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/ Sibley Guide to Birds (1st edition)
Fish	databasin.org/ pisces.ucdavis.edu/
Invertebrates	www.abirdshome.com/resource/bflyusa.htm www.butterfliesofamerica.com/ ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/ www.xerces.org www.natureserve.org
Mammals	Peterson Guide to Mammals (3rd edition)
Plants	www.calflora.org/ (California Consortium of Herbaria records and research-grade observations)
Reptiles	Peterson Guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians (3rd edition)

The Covered Species Group considered that many taxa have incomplete survey coverage in California's deserts and that the CNDDB has limitations (*e.g.*, it is primarily a positive sighting database, should be updated often, is not the only source of California biodiversity information, private/other non-submitted sources of occurrence data are not reflected in CNDDB). However, the CNDDB represents California's statewide repository for special-status occurrence data and has been used successfully by other efforts to evaluate large numbers of taxa and summarize taxon-specific information for more detailed examination. As described later in this appendix, expert consultation and analyses of other data sources (*e.g.*, species distribution models) were used to help minimize potential limitations associated with any one source used in the species filtering portion of this process.

Taxa not present in the CNDDB were assigned 'Yes' or 'No' values based on agency expert opinions and information sources (as described above). Some taxa originally assigned 'No' were updated to 'Yes'. Taxa within the 'Yes' category were included for further consideration.

Species Filter B: Are taxa likely present within Development Focus Areas (DFAs) or transmission areas (TAs)? This filter question was originally worded "Would Covered Activities affect the species?" in early covered species deliberations. Staff combined GIS files of individual alternative DRECP Development Focus Areas (DFAs) and potential new

transmission areas (TAs) to create a single, merged GIS file depicting the location of all DFAs/TAs for all alternatives. The Covered Species Group intersected the merged DFA/TA layer with the CNDDB layer. Taxonomic polygons partially or completely within the merged DFA/TA layer were assigned 'Yes' in summary Excel spreadsheets, records completely outside the merged DFA/TA layer (or Plan Area) were assigned 'No'. Taxa which had no CNDDB records or which were corrected/edited by the Covered Species Group were assigned 'Yes' or 'No' using the same protocol as was done with Species Filter A (*i.e.*, based on biologist expertise and/or published species distribution maps or descriptions). Taxa within the 'Yes' category were included for further consideration.

Species Filter C: Are taxa CESA- and/or ESA-listed? Early wording of this filter question consisted of "Is the viability and recovery of the species dependent on conservation and management in the Plan Area?" However, gathering individual, and in some cases, conflicting, expert answers to the question of viability and recovery for all taxa was infeasible. Thus, we relied on the state and federal listing status (as of December 2012) as a proxy for viability and recovery information. Unlisted taxa were considered in later steps (see "Non-Filter Analyses", below). For each taxon on the Master Species List, staff recorded the conservation status from each of the following two organizations/lists: CDFW listing status and USFWS listing status. Each conservation status level was converted to a relative concern level ('Yes' or 'Maybe'), as summarized in the following table:

Organization	Yes	Maybe
CDFW	(Candidate) Endangered, (Candidate) Threatened	Rare, Species of Special Concern, Delisted
USFWS	(Candidate) Endangered, (Candidate) Threatened, Threatened Due to Similarity of Appearance	Experimental Population (Non-essential)

Based on the ranking definitions published by each wildlife agency, taxa assigned to the 'Yes' category are critically imperiled to the point where further reduction in distribution and numbers will have significant negative effects on their viability and recovery. Therefore, the overall viability and recovery of a taxon is dependent in part on sustaining the taxon within the DRECP area. Based on wildlife agency list status, taxa assigned to the 'Maybe' category are likely to have a comparatively reduced conservation risk and are less likely to require immediate, specific conservation management actions to maintain viability than taxa assigned to the 'Yes' category. Note that "Rare" is designated by CDFW for plants only, and CDFW does not issue take permits for these taxa. There is no equivalent for animals or for federally listed taxa. Therefore, this state listing status was included in the 'Maybe' category.

The two wildlife agencies sometimes had differing rankings of the relative conservation status for a given taxon. If either agency ranked a taxon as 'Yes', then 'Yes' was applied for this filter. If 'Yes' was never recorded, then 'Maybe' was applied for this filter.

Other filter questions considered but not used. A few filter questions were described as part of the species filter approach considered by the agencies, consultants, and stakeholders (including the Stakeholder Covered Species Working Group) in the 2010 through mid-2012 Covered Species List deliberations. However, the varying levels of available information for the hundreds of taxa on the Master Species List precluded the Covered Species Group from answering some of these filter questions in a systematic, timely, and non-subjective way. Filters that were considered, but not used, include the following questions:

- Can the species be categorized in one of the functional groups for planning species identified by the ISA?
- Does the species lend itself to monitoring and does it demonstrate measureable responses to stressors, management, and restoration that would make it a suitable indicator of natural community health?
- Will reasonable monitoring efforts be able to convey reliable species status information to ascertain whether the species conservation objectives are achieved?
- Is the species currently listed or does it have the possibility to become listed during the permit term based on current status, threats, and population trends?

B) Non-Filter Analyses

The Covered Species Group performed additional analyses to incorporate other data sources, provide greater resolution within the filter results, and determine whether further taxa should be considered as Covered Species (*i.e.,* identification of taxa not on the Master Species List, updates to filtered results). These analyses used information gathered from a wider group of individuals outside the Covered Species Group and published information. It is important to note that these analyses were not used as described above (that is, as filters applied sequentially) and most were not possible or appropriate to undertake for all taxa in the Master Species List. Instead, these analysis results were used to supplement filter results and served as additional reference information for decisions on recommendations for taxa lacking clear-cut filter results or for which decision-making was relatively complicated due to multiple factors.

i. Index of Conservation Concern

For each taxon on the Master Species List, staff recorded the conservation status from each of the following four lists: CDFW listing status (*e.g.,* California Endangered Species Act [CESA]), CNDDB State Rank ("S Rank"), California Native Plant Society's (CNPS's) California Rare Plant Rank (flora only), and NatureServe Global Rank ("G Rank"). Individual, list-specific conservation status levels were converted to binary conservation rankings ('High' or 'Low'), as summarized in the following table:

Organization	High	Low
CDFW	Rare, Species of Special Concern, Endangered, Candidate Endangered, Threatened, Candidate Threatened	Delisted
CNDDB	S1 (any), S2 (any), S3 (any), SH, SX, SXC	S4 (any), S5 (any), SNR
CNPS	1A, 1B (any), 2 (any)	3 (any), 4 (any)
NatureServe	G1 (any), G2 (any), G3 (any), GH, GHQ, GX, G(any)T1(any), G(any)T2(any), G(any)T3(any)	G4 (not T1-3), G5 (not T1-3)

As with Species Filter C, the overall viability and recovery of taxa assigned to the 'High' category is dependent in part on sustaining the taxon within the Plan Area, while taxa assigned to the 'Low' category have been ranked by these organizations as having a relatively reduced conservation risk. Conversion to 'High' and 'Low' rankings was based on the conservation rank definitions provided by the individual organizations.

These four lists primarily were included because of the largely independent criteria used to determine conservation status (*i.e.,* individual lists do not rely primarily on the rankings of another organization or list). Lists from other organizations (*e.g.*, American Bird Conservancy, American Fisheries Society, BLM [Sensitive and Special Status Species lists], International Union for Conservation of Nature, USFWS [listing status], US Forest Service, Western Bat Working Group, Xerces Society) were also examined before selecting the four lists shown in the table above. However, other lists were not included for this analysis primarily because of concerns about inappropriately weighting results due to these lists' reliance upon rankings provided by the organizations in the table above. Additionally, other organizational lists tended to focus on taxa outside of the Plan Area or summarized too few taxa on the Master Species List (even within major taxonomic groups). Note also that the BLM does not provide individual conservation rankings for their listed taxa (*i.e.,* taxa are either on the BLM list or they are not, but they are not ranked according to level of sensitivity). However, taxa present on the BLM lists were already present on the CDFW lists and, therefore, already considered in our analysis.

To generate a relative index of concern, the number of organizations providing a 'High' conservation ranking was divided by the maximum number of possible organizational rankings (3 for fauna; 4 for flora). Relative concern percentages were then assigned categories based on the following splits: 'No' = no organizations (0%) recorded a 'High' ranking, 'Maybe' = up to half (1–50%) of the organizations recorded a 'High' ranking, and 'Yes' = more than half (51–100%) of the organizations recorded a 'High' ranking. These calculations used conservation rankings as of December 2012. On its own, a 'Yes' result from this analysis was not considered sufficient rationale to add taxa to the proposed Covered Species List; additional rationale was also needed to do so.

ii. Adequacy of Taxon-Specific Information

Is there adequate life history, distribution, and vulnerability information to develop conservation strategies? This question was one of the original species filters developed by the Stakeholder Covered Species Working Group in 2010. However, it was not answered for all taxa on the Master Species List, in part due to the subjective nature of the question and the lack of available sources for uniformly evaluating all taxa on the Master Species List in a timely manner. However, the adequacy of information was evaluated qualitatively for each taxon on a subset of the Master Species List by the Covered Species Group and REAT Managers (described in "REAT Manager Review", below).

iii. Agency Staff Input

In early January 2013, 16 BLM, CDFW, CEC, and USFWS staff members (most of whom were not directly involved with DRECP development) were requested to answer up to four questions (from Species Filters A, B, C, and the Index of Conservation Concern) for any of the Master Species List taxa for which they possessed knowledge. Although the entire Master Species List was provided for review, staff were requested to prioritize Covered Species in the December 2012 interim document and the taxa remaining at the end of Species Filter C. Staff members were not given direction in, nor requested to provide, the rationale used to answer each of the four species filters. The Covered Species Group performed an analysis of the responses received to determine the following for each question and taxon: the response rate (percentage), the majority response ('Yes'/'Maybe'/'No'), the support for the majority response (percentage), and whether the majority response agreed with the species filter response ('Yes'/'Maybe'/'No'). The "final" Covered Species Group interpretation of overall agency staff responses were in a format of 'Yes'/'Maybe'/'No' and were based on a minimum number of responses received, amount of agreement between respondents, and whether taxa remained after species filters.

In early February 2013, Covered Species Group members followed up with CDFW specialists to discuss staff recommendations that conflicted with the preliminary Covered Species Group recommendations. The Covered Species Group performed a similar analysis

of plant taxa, in an attempt to resolve cases of conflicting recommendations or information. Rationale for plant taxa was compiled from CNPS comment letters, CNPS quantitative analysis tables, input collected (as above) from agency botanists, and a consultant spreadsheet that included a list of species-specific comments received through mid-2012 regarding potential Covered Species (*e.g.*, comments from ISP, ISA, consultants, and stakeholders, including products and information developed in the Stakeholder Covered Species Working Group process). The additional information gathered was used to help resolve differences in the responses and to help inform the Covered Species Group when compiling their recommendations.

iv. Public Comments

In early 2013, Covered Species Group members performed an analysis of public comment letters and stakeholder correspondence submitted to the DRECP since 2009 (mostly found on www.drecp.org or www.energy.ca.gov). Several detailed sets of comments and data compiled by stakeholders during the Stakeholder Covered Species Working Group process in 2011, as well as comments from the ISA (2010) and ISP (2012), were considered again in this analysis. Over 1,000 taxa, including some not present on the Master Species List, were identified during this review. Of the "new" taxa, most did not pass through Species Filter A (*i.e.*, they were not likely to be found in the Plan Area based on the methods described earlier in this appendix); the remaining taxa were dismissed based on factors discussed by the Covered Species Group or because the public comments did not provide species-specific information needed to proceed further in our analysis. Examples of overly general comments included non-specific common or group names (*e.g.,* "sage", "birds of prey") and non-specific genera names (*e.g.,* "*Arabis* species"). All taxa recommended in public comments for consideration or inclusion in the DRECP were noted in an Excel spreadsheet and analyzed as with the Agency Staff Input review (*i.e.,* response rate, the majority response, the support for the majority response, whether the majority response agreed with the species filter response, and the "final" response). The "final" responses were in a format of 'Yes'/'Maybe'/'No'. Note that public comment information is depicted twice in Figure 1, indicating the dual use of public comments (*i.e.*, to identify new taxa for addition to the Master Species List and to provide additional input for discussions of narrowed taxon lists).

v. Invertebrate Expert Input

Covered Species Group members conducted outreach to 17 invertebrate experts identified in Appendix C (Individuals with Known Expertise Regarding Sensitive Invertebrates in the DRECP Planning Area) of the ISA (2010) report. Staff used a web-based meeting (19 October 2012) and email correspondence to solicit recommendations on invertebrate taxa that should be run through the species filters or otherwise considered for coverage under

the Plan. Over half of the experts did not respond to any of the outreach attempts, a few of the experts had since retired or stated they were unable to contribute due to workload constraints, and a few of the experts participated in the web-based meeting.

At the web-based meeting, consultant staff provided an overview of the DRECP area and maps. Agency staff described the species filters and regulatory considerations related to covered status, and displayed a list of invertebrates of potential concern identified in various sources to date. The experts discussed sensitive invertebrate habitat affiliations and requested background information (*e.g.*, maps of areas that could be developed or would be avoided, potential avoidance measures) that would be useful to help narrow and focus the scope of their review.

In early 2013, the Covered Species Group sent the following materials to the invertebrate experts: DFA map for all alternatives (from the DRECP interim document), draft dunes Conservation and Management Actions (CMAs) and map, draft landscape-level CMAs, and an invertebrate working list of taxa compiled from previous suggestions in various sources reviewed through the Covered Species filter process. This correspondence also included questions to guide invertebrate suggestions for the DRECP Covered Species List and encouraged experts to request any other additional materials (*e.g.*, various land cover maps) needed to facilitate their review. Only a few responses in the form of general comments and reactions on a portion of the working list circulated were received.

General comments noted the likelihood of cryptic species in certain invertebrate groups and reiterated the insufficiency of baseline information and detailed study for invertebrates in general and, specifically, in this large area of desert habitat. That is, the lack of information on the life history, distribution, and abundance of invertebrates confounds efforts to determine what taxa may be present in a given desert area and affected by Covered Activities as well as develop conservation strategies.

With regard to comments made on the draft working list of invertebrates, one expert commented that over a third of the working list are either tied to dune habitats, rare or sparsely-distributed and would presumably lack the necessary level of baseline information required to answer the filter questions, or are already protected. For those taxa not on the working list, it was noted that it may be unnecessary to add them to the Covered Species List if they are limited to sensitive areas already excluded from development. Also, for those sensitive invertebrates that were not on the working list, many would not need to be put on the list due to the Plan's avoidance of key habitats/important areas or because there is too little baseline information. While broad groups of invertebrates were discussed, only two specific taxa (Casey's June beetle [*Dinacoma caseyi*] and cheeseweed owlfly/cheeseweed moth lacewing [*Oliarces clara*]) were noted in these expert comments, and both of these were already on the invertebrate

working list and Master Species List. In conclusion, no new taxa were recommended for addition to the Master Species List or Covered Species List.

vi. Multiple District Listing Review

To augment the Covered Species analysis with a more complete picture of species that might be listed in the near future, staff accessed the Multiple District Listing Workplan for 2013–2018.[7] As part of a court-approved settlement in 2011, the USFWS has committed to publish certain ESA listing actions (*e.g.*, petition findings, listing determinations, Critical Habitat designations) in Fiscal Years 2013–2018. The agreement is intended to significantly reduce ESA-related litigation and allow the agency to focus its resources on the species most in need of ESA protection.[8]

An Excel spreadsheet version of the Multiple District Listing information created by the USFWS was filtered to eliminate all species that did not have a historic range that included California, Arizona, or Nevada (states with Mojave and/or Sonoran Desert lands and bordering California).[9] The remaining species were compared to the Master Species List to see if there were any species on 2013–2018 Workplan that had already been analyzed by the Covered Species Group. Three were present in the Master Species List and had already been analyzed: southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax trailii extimus*), Sierra Madre yellow-legged frog (*Rana muscosa*), and Coachella Valley milk-vetch (*Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *coachellae*). The taxa remaining after the range-based filtering described above, were put through the same GIS analyses described in Species Filters A and B (*i.e.*, is the species in the Plan Area and would the species be affected by Covered Activities?). Only the Sierra Madre yellow-legged frog and southwestern willow flycatcher had occurrences within DFAs/TAs. Southwestern willow flycatcher is present on the proposed Covered Species List in this document; thus, this taxon is not further discussed here.

The Sierra Madre yellow-legged frog was previously removed from consideration as a Covered Species as a result of staff input. As part of this Multiple District Listing analysis, staff examined the two Sierra Madre yellow-legged frog records that overlap the Plan Area. The first record is from the West Fork of the Mojave River/Little Horsethief Canyon Area, which overlaps a proposed transmission corridor. The record was collected in the 1940s, but the taxon is now considered by the CNDDB to be extirpated from that area. The second record is based on six specimens collected in the mid- to late-1940s from the Big Rock Creek area. The reference landmark in the original description of this occurrence is vague; thus, CNDDB mapped the point as one mile on either side of Valeyermo, California along Big Rock Creek. This occurrence does not overlap any DFAs or transmission alignments (in the

7 www.fws.gov/endangered/improving_ESA/FY13-18_ESA_Listing_workplan.pdf
8 www.fws.gov/endangered/improving_ESA/listing_workplan_FY13-18.html
9 www.fws.gov/endangered/improving_ESA/FY13-18_ESA_Listing_workplan.xlsx

interim document). However, the USFWS Five-Year Review for the Sierra Madre yellow-legged frog southern Distinct Population Segment does identify an extant population along Big Rock Creek. Unfortunately, there is not specific information in the Five-Year Review to show whether there are extant occurrences along the segment of Big Rock Creek within the Plan Area. Segments of Big Rock Creek that are closer to the desert floor and overlap DFAs lack typical Sierra Madre yellow-legged frog habitat. Thus, the Sierra Madre yellow-legged frog was not recommended to be included as a Covered Species based on the Multiple District Listing analysis.

vii. Statewide Extreme Rarity

To examine cases of extreme rarity not immediately evident in the filter results, the Covered Species Group performed a separate analysis using CNDDB and DRECP GIS data. The goal of this analysis was to identify taxa suspected to have five or fewer element occurrences in the state according to CNDDB (based generally on the definition of S1, critically imperiled, as defined by CDFW/NatureServe ranking system[10]) as well as meet other criteria for proposed Covered Species. These taxa, if truly as rare as the number of documented occurrences indicates, could be reasonably assumed to meet the criteria for state listing and, therefore, could have some likelihood of being listed during the term of the DRECP. Taxa with extremely small numbers of occurrences could be highly vulnerable to extirpation from the state (or even extinction) due to stochastic events and, in some cases, could represent peripheral populations of conservation concern due to potential loss of edge-of-range genetic diversity.

The Covered Species Group performed a GIS query to identify taxa documented in DFAs/TAs (Species Filter B) having five or fewer element occurrences in the CNDDB. Additional information for these taxa, such as life history, habitat, occurrence details (*e.g.,* land ownership, dates of sources and surveys), S Rank, coverage in other conservation/management plans, and threats, were discussed by the Covered Species Group.

viii. Species Distribution Models

The Covered Species Group visually examined species distribution model output (*i.e.,* statistical/Maxent or expert models on databasin.org) available in late 2013. This examination not only provided an additional error check of filter results, which rely on CNDDB points and polygons that do not fully depict predicted suitable habitat, but also helped to resolve questions that arose from list discussions by the Covered Species Group and REAT Managers.

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[10] In some cases, the CNDDB assigns a rank or S2 or higher to taxa with 5 or fewer occurrences, depending on the number of Area of Occupancy grid squares occupied (based on NatureServe methodology [http://www.natureserve.org/sites/default/files/publications/files/natureserveconservationstatusmethodology_jun12_0.pdf]).

ix. Mammal Species of Special Concern

One of the sources consulted by the Covered Species Group is *Terrestrial Mammal Species of Special Concern in California* (Bolster, ed. 1998). The Covered Species Group reviewed draft documents and data from the planned update (*California Mammal Species of Special Concern* [CMSSC]). While the CMSSC list is tentative, subject to change, and has not been officially adopted by CDFW as of July 2014, the Covered Species Group reviewed these tentative designations and the associated occurrence database. Errors within the CMSSC database exist, and apparently, at least one expert plans to correct them (Wayne Spencer, personal communication). If the CMSSC data are finalized and made public in a reasonable time frame prior to the final DRECP, then the Covered Species Group will undertake a more thorough analysis of the published information.

C) REAT Manager Review

As of July 2014, over 1,100 taxa were evaluated by the Covered Species Group. Taxa that successfully passed through Species Filters A, B, and C, taxa on the DRECP interim document, taxa frequently identified during non-filter analyses, and taxa requested for further discussion by agency staff (despite, for example, otherwise incompatible initial species filter results) were combined into a subset list of taxa for further analysis. The Covered Species Group and the REAT Managers evaluated best available information (*e.g.*, species filter results, maps, agency staff rationale, natural history information) for these taxa before rendering joint recommendations. Rationale for inclusion or exclusion of taxa was also documented. The June 2013 list of proposed Covered Species was posted on 17 June 2013 (see www.drecp.org/documents/resources.html). See Table I.3-2 for rationale regarding Covered Species List changes in 2014.

D) Final Analysis and DRECP Agency Review

The Covered Species Group may re-run the species filters prior to the publication of the Final DRECP using updated GIS/CNDDB data. The Covered Species Group and REAT Managers would review these results and consider additional updated/new information (*e.g.*, the updated CMSSC, future CNDDB data) and public comments. As a result of re-analyses or for other reasons, the composition of the proposed Covered Species List may change (*e.g.*, reductions to the Covered Species List if taxa are no longer subjected to Covered Activities due to revised DFA/TA delineations; additions to the Covered Species List if certain new occurrences are discovered in DFAs/TAs). The list may continue to be evaluated and may be revised until lead agency approval of the final DRECP (and thereafter by amendment to the DRECP).

B.3 Literature Cited

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ATTACHMENT A: Covered Species List Documentation Summary. Note the full Excel file with multiple spreadsheets will be posted to http://www.drecp.org/whatisdrecp/species.html.

Taxonomic Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status[1]	State Status[2]	Species Filter A[3]	Species Filter B[4]	Species Filter C[5]	Index of Conservation Concern[6]	Present on June 2013 Proposed Covered Species List?	Brief Rationale for Proposed Coverage (June 2013)	Present on 2014 Draft DRECP Covered Species List?	Brief Rationale for Proposed Coverage in 2014 Draft DRECP
Bird	Tri-Colored Blackbird	*Agelaius tricolor*	BCC / BLM	CSC	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes	Yes	The number of tricolored blackbirds reported throughout California in 2013 is substantially lower than that of previous years. Sites formerly occupied by sizable colonies in the past decade were unoccupied in 2013. Expert population estimates range from "160,000, perhaps fewer" to "in the low 200,000s." Numbers both in the Central Valley and southern California are falling fast (perhaps 1/3 the number in 2005). The Tricolored Blackbird Working Group has documented the decline thoroughly using methods supported by intensive research and monitoring. Experts report evidence for chronic low reproductive success and predicted a steep population decline due to an aging population and reproduction that has been insufficient to sustain existing numbers since 2006, the last year of relatively high reproductive output. They noted a great need for on-the-ground actions to stem the decline. High Index of Conservation Concern.	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013 rationale.
Bird	Golden Eagle	*Aquila chrysaetos*	BLM	FP	Yes	No	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Appears to be in decline in California. Significant wind turbine mortality. High Index of Conservation Concern. Note that the use of 2013-2014 CNDDB data and/or DFA/TA locations changed Species Filter B results from 'No' to 'Yes.'	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013 rationale.
Bird	Burrowing Owl	*Athene cunicularia*	BLM	CSC	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Imperial Valley contains most of remaining population. Future water reduction impacts. Has been petitioned for listing in past and likely to be re-petitioned in future. High Index of Conservation Concern.	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013 rationale.
Bird	Swainson's Hawk	*Buteo swainsoni*	BLM / FS	ST	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Species Filters A, B, C. High Index of Conservation Concern.	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013 rationale.
Bird	Mountain Plover	*Charadrius montanus*	BCC / BLM	CSC	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Imperial Valley agricultural land supports 89% of the wintering birds in the state, and smaller flocks traditionally use selected agricultural areas in West Mojave. High Index of Conservation Concern.	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013 rationale.
Bird	Western Yellow-Billed Cuckoo	*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*	BCC / BLM / FC / FS	SE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	June 2013 recommendation reflects species filter results from mid-2013. Note that late 2013-2014 CNDDB data and/or DFA/TA locations caused Species Filter B results to change from 'Yes' to 'No'. Modeled habitat overlaps DFAs/TAs.	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013 rationale.

Taxonomic Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status[1]	State Status[2]	Species Filter A[3]	Species Filter B[4]	Species Filter C[5]	Index of Conservation Concern[6]	Present on June 2013 Proposed Covered Species List?	Brief Rationale for Proposed Coverage (June 2013)	Present on 2014 Draft DRECP Covered Species List?	Brief Rationale for Proposed Coverage in 2014 Draft DRECP
Bird	Willow Flycatcher (all subspecies, including South-western)	*Empidonax traillii* (all subspecies, including *extimus*)	FE (*extimus*) / - (other subspecies)	SE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Species Filters A, B, C. High Index of Conservation Concern.	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013 rationale.
Bird	Greater Sandhill Crane	*Grus canadensis tabida*	BLM / FS	FP / ST	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Species Filters A, B, C. High Index of Conservation Concern.	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013 rationale.
Bird	California Condor	*Gymnogyps californianus*	FE	FP / SE	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Despite species filter results, modeled habitat overlaps DFAs/TAs. USFWS confirmed GPS records in the Plan Area and DFAs/TAs that were not present in the CNDDB at the time of analysis. New CNDDB data and/or DFA/TA locations will cause species filter results to change. High Index of Conservation Concern.	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013 rationale.
Bird	California Black Rail	*Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus*	BCC / BLM	ST	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Species Filters A, B, C. High Index of Conservation Concern.	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013 rationale.
Bird	Gila Wood-pecker	*Melanerpes uropygialis*	BCC / BLM	SE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Species Filters A, B, C. High Index of Conservation Concern.	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013 rationale.
Bird	Elf Owl	*Micrathene whitneyi*	BCC / BLM	SE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Species Filters A, B, C. High Index of Conservation Concern.	No	Removed from proposed coverage: not likely to be affected by Covered Activities. Distribution addressed by riparian CMAs. In the Plan Area, associated with remnant riparian areas in the Colorado River only, which will not be affected by the plan.
Bird	Yuma Clapper Rail	*Rallus longirostris yumanensis*	BCC / FE	FP / ST	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Species Filters A, B, C. High Index of Conservation Concern.	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013 rationale.
Bird	Bendire's Thrasher	*Toxostoma bendirei*	BCC / BLM	CSC	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Likely to become listed during permit term. High Index of Conservation Concern.	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013 rationale.
Bird	Bell's Vireo (Arizona)	*Vireo bellii arizonae*	BLM	SE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	June 2013 recommendation reflects species filter results from mid-2013. Note that the use of late 2013-2014 CNDDB data and/or DFA/TA locations changed	No	Removed from proposed coverage: operational effects only. In the Plan Area,

Taxonomic Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status[1]	State Status[2]	Species Filter A[3]	Species Filter B[4]	Species Filter C[5]	Index of Conservation Concern[6]	Present on June 2013 Proposed Covered Species List?	Brief Rationale for Proposed Coverage (June 2013)	Present on 2014 Draft DRECP Covered Species List?	Brief Rationale for Proposed Coverage in 2014 Draft DRECP
										Species Filter B results from 'Yes' to 'No.' Coverage decision was reviewed again during 2014.		associated with the Colorado River only, which will not be affected by the plan.
Bird	Bell's Vireo (Least)	*Vireo bellii pusillus*	BCC / FE	SE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Species Filters A, B, C. High Index of Conservation Concern.	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013 rationale.
Fish	Desert Pupfish	*Cyprinodon macularius*	FE	SE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Species Filters A, B, C. High Index of Conservation Concern.	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013 rationale.
Fish	Owens Pupfish	*Cyprinodon radiosus*	FE	FP / SE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Species Filters A, B, C. High Index of Conservation Concern.	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013 rationale.
Fish	Mohave Tui Chub	*Siphateles bicolor mohavensis*	FE	FP / SE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Species Filters A, B, C. High Index of Conservation Concern.	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013 rationale.
Fish	Owens Tui Chub	*Siphateles bicolor snyderi*	FE	SE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Species Filters A, B, C. High Index of Conservation Concern.	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013 rationale.
Mammal	Pallid Bat	*Antrozous pallidus*	BLM / FS	CSC	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Relies on desert wash and creosote shrub vegetation for foraging. The desert has been considered a conservation stronghold for this taxon. One of a few species discussed among California bat biologists as in need of listing due to loss of significant maternity colonies in the state. Documented statewide decline. High Index of Conservation Concern.	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013 rationale.
Mammal	Townsend's Big-Eared Bat	*Corynorhinus townsendii*	BLM / FS	CSC	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes	Yes	If white-nose syndrome arrives in California, it is likely to be a significant issue for this species due to habitat/life history characteristics, such as hibernating in cold mines/caves. CESA listing petition being evaluated and likely to move forward to status review. Considered at highest risk for endangerment due to loss of maternity colonies and diverse other impacts. Present on the West Mojave HCP Covered Species List, indicating adequate baseline information for coverage. Large population decline for this species statewide. Highly sensitive to disturbance. Mojave Desert identified by California Bat Conservation Strategy Workshop as one of the ecoregions of highest risk for this species. Forages over desert woodland. High Index of Conservation Concern.	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013 rationale.
Mammal	California Leaf-Nosed	*Macrotus californicus*	BLM / FS	CSC	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Tightly associated with southern California deserts. Present on the West Mojave HCP Covered Species	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013

Taxonomic Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status[1]	State Status[2]	Species Filter A[3]	Species Filter B[4]	Species Filter C[5]	Index of Conservation Concern[6]	Present on June 2013 Proposed Covered Species List?	Brief Rationale for Proposed Coverage (June 2013)	Present on 2014 Draft DRECP Covered Species List?	Brief Rationale for Proposed Coverage in 2014 Draft DRECP
	Bat									List, indicating adequate baseline information for coverage. Mojave Desert identified by California Bat Conservation Strategy Workshop as one of the ecoregions of highest risk for this species. High Index of Conservation Concern.		rationale.
Mammal	Mojave River Vole	*Microtus californicus mohavensis*	-	CSC	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Found in river bed area and in agriculture areas near the river (the latter is the location of some proposed solar projects). Historic range has been heavily impacted by agricultural and urban land uses. Flooding damage to residential developments along the Mojave River has resulted in pressures to control flooding through channelization. Bleich (in review) considered *M. c. mohavensis* vulnerable to extinction as a consequence of its restricted distribution, previous habitat loss, and the ongoing urbanization in lands adjoining its range. High Index of Conservation Concern.	No	Removed from proposed coverage: lacks sufficient rationale to override species filter results. Considered for coverage on the June 2013 proposed Covered Species List but not likely to be affected by Covered Activities due to habitat. Addressed by riparian CMAs. Take could be avoided through riparian setbacks.
Mammal	Mule Deer (Burro)	*Odocoileus hemionus eremicus*	-	CSC	Yes	Yes	Maybe	No	Yes	Good indicator of microphyll woodland ("driver community") biodiversity. A widely distributed species that provides an umbrella/surrogate effect for more narrowly distributed and/or lesser known species.	No (Planning)	Moved to Planning Species List: affected reserve design and is widely distributed. Removed from proposed coverage: lacks sufficient rationale to override species filter results. Considered for coverage on the June 2013 proposed Covered Species List but no need for take authorization due to current unlisted status.
Mammal	Desert Bighorn Sheep	*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*	FE and BLM (Peninsular Ranges DPS) / BLM (all other DPS)	FP and ST (Peninsular Ranges DPS) / FP (all other DPS)	Yes	Yes[7]	Maybe[8]	Yes	Yes (all DPS)	Taxon contains listed DPS (Penisular Ranges). Vulnerable if connectivity impacted. High Index of Conservation Concern.	Yes (except Peninsular DPS)	Peninsular Ranges DPS removed from proposed coverage: not likely to be affected by Covered Activities due to distribution. Other DPS proposed as Covered Species: vulnerable if connectivity impacted and high Index of Conservation Concern.
Mammal	Desert Kit Fox	*Vulpes macrotis arsipus*	-	CSC	Yes	Yes	Maybe	No	Yes	Recently petitioned for state listing under CESA. Concern for species due to disease outbreak possibly associated with large-scale solar development. Coverage would allow translocation, monitoring, and	No (Planning)	Moved to Planning Species List: affected reserve design and is widely distributed. Removed from proposed coverage: lacks

Taxonomic Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status[1]	State Status[2]	Species Filter A[3]	Species Filter B[4]	Species Filter C[5]	Index of Conservation Concern[6]	Present on June 2013 Proposed Covered Species List?	Brief Rationale for Proposed Coverage (June 2013)	Present on 2014 Draft DRECP Covered Species List?	Brief Rationale for Proposed Coverage in 2014 Draft DRECP
										other activities, if necessary, which are otherwise precluded by its fur bearer status.		sufficient rationale to override species filter results. Considered for coverage on the June 2013 proposed Covered Species List but not a sensitive species.
Mammal	Mohave Ground Squirrel	*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*	BLM	ST	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Species Filters A, B, C. High Index of Conservation Concern.	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013 rationale.
Plant	Lane Mountain Milk-Vetch	*Astragalus jaegerianus*	FE	CSC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Species Filters A, B, C. High Index of Conservation Concern. While dune CMAs would provide some protection, there may be potential impacts off dunes (per expert opinion).	No	Removed from proposed coverage: primarily confined to BLM lands (which require surveys and avoidance) except for approximately 2,000 acres in-holdings within BLM ACEC and approximately 200 acres in CSLC lands.
Plant	Triple-Ribbed Milk-Vetch	*Astragalus tricarinatus*	FE	(CRPR 1B.2)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Species Filters A, B, C. High Index of Conservation Concern.	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013 rationale.
Plant	Alkali Mariposa Lily	*Calochortus striatus*	BLM	(CRPR 1B.2)	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Sufficient baseline data (*e.g.*, for species distribution modeling) and information to develop a conservation strategy. Given general habitat, likelihood of renewable energy impacts. High Index of Conservation Concern.	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013 rationale.
Plant	Flat-Seeded Spurge	*Chamaesyce platysperma*	BLM	CSC	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes	Yes	June 2013 recommendation reflects information from mid-2013. Despite extreme statewide rarity (5 or fewer element occurrences), lacks recent records or substantial background information. Expert model (occurrences buffered by 1 km) barely overlaps a DFA. Coverage decision was reviewed again during 2014.	No	Removed from proposed coverage: lacks sufficient rationale to override species filter results. Considered for coverage on the June 2013 proposed Covered Species List but not enough baseline information to provide assurances or issue take coverage. Conserved through dune CMAs.
Plant	Munz's Cholla	*Cylindropuntia munzii*	BLM	CSC	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Extreme statewide rarity (5 or fewer element occurrences). Sufficient baseline data (*e.g.*, for species distribution modeling) and information to develop a conservation strategy. High Index of Conservation Concern.	No	Removed from proposed coverage: lacks sufficient rationale to override species filter results. Considered for coverage on the June 2013 proposed Covered Species List but minimal potential for

Taxonomic Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status[1]	State Status[2]	Species Filter A[3]	Species Filter B[4]	Species Filter C[5]	Index of Conservation Concern[6]	Present on June 2013 Proposed Covered Species List?	Brief Rationale for Proposed Coverage (June 2013)	Present on 2014 Draft DRECP Covered Species List?	Brief Rationale for Proposed Coverage in 2014 Draft DRECP
												effects by Covered Activities. Most of Plan Area distribution occurs on Chocolate Mountains Aerial Gunnery Range (DOD lands), which the DRECP cannot manage.
Plant	Desert Cymopterus	*Cymopterus deserticola*	BLM	(CRPR 1B.2)	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Sufficient baseline data (*e.g.*, for species distribution modeling) and information to develop a conservation strategy (*e.g.*, present on the West Mojave HCP Covered Species List). Given general habitat, likelihood of renewable energy impacts. Petitioned for federal listing in past; likely to be re-petitioned during term of plan given status of lands where it occurs. High Index of Conservation Concern.	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013 rationale.
Plant	Mojave Tarplant	*Deinandra mohavensis*	BLM	SE (CRPR 1B.3)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Species Filters A, B, C. High Index of Conservation Concern.	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013 rationale.
Plant	Bare-Stem Larkspur	*Delphinium scaposum*	-	CSC	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes	Yes	June 2013 recommendation reflects species filter results from mid-2013. Note that the use of late 2013-2014 CNDDB data and/or DFA/TA locations changed Species Filter B results from 'Yes' to 'No.' Despite extreme rarity (5 or fewer element occurrences), coverage decision was reviewed again during 2014.	No	Removed from proposed coverage: lacks sufficient rationale to override species filter results. Considered for coverage on the June 2013 proposed Covered Species List but not likely to be affected by Covered Activities due to distribution. In the Plan Area, restricted to the Whipple Mountains only, which would not be affected by the plan.
Plant	Parish's Daisy	*Erigeron parishii*	FT	(CRPR 1B.1)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Species Filters A, B, C. High Index of Conservation Concern.	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013 rationale.
Plant	Cushenbury Buckwheat	*Eriogonum ovalifolium* var. *vineum*	FE	(CRPR 1B.1)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Species Filters A, B, C. High Index of Conservation Concern.	No	Removed from proposed coverage: minimal to no potential for effects by Covered Activities. Nearly all on BLM lands, where surveys and avoidance would be required.
Plant	Barstow Woolly	*Eriophyllum*	BLM	(CRPR	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Sufficient baseline data (*e.g.*, for species distribution modeling) and information to develop a conservation	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013

Taxonomic Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status[1]	State Status[2]	Species Filter A[3]	Species Filter B[4]	Species Filter C[5]	Index of Conservation Concern[6]	Present on June 2013 Proposed Covered Species List?	Brief Rationale for Proposed Coverage (June 2013)	Present on 2014 Draft DRECP Covered Species List?	Brief Rationale for Proposed Coverage in 2014 Draft DRECP
	Sunflower	*mohavense*		1B.2)						strategy (*e.g.*, present on the West Mojave HCP Covered Species List). Given general habitat, likelihood of renewable energy impacts. High Index of Conservation Concern.		rationale.
Plant	Little San Bernardino Mountains Linanthus	*Linanthus maculatus*	BLM	(CRPR 1B.2)	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Sufficient baseline data (*e.g.*, for species distribution modeling) and information to develop a conservation strategy (*e.g.*, present on West Mojave HCP Covered Species List). Likelihood of renewable energy impacts based on location (near BLM-verified wind and solar project applications). High Index of Conservation Concern.	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013 rationale.
Plant	Mojave Monkey-flower	*Mimulus mohavensis*	BLM	(CRPR 1B.2)	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Sufficient baseline data (*e.g.*, for species distribution modeling) and information to develop a conservation strategy (*e.g.*, present on West Mojave HCP Covered Species List). Given general habitat, likelihood of renewable energy impacts. High Index of Conservation Concern.	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013 rationale.
Plant	Bakersfield Cactus	*Opuntia basilaris* var. *treleasei*	FE	SE (CRPR 1B.1)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Species Filters A, B, C. High Index of Conservation Concern.	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013 rationale.
Plant	White-Margined Beard-tongue	*Penstemon albomargina tus*	BLM	(CRPR 1B.1)	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Sufficient baseline data (*e.g.*, for species distribution modeling) and information to develop a conservation strategy. Given general habitat, likelihood of renewable energy impacts. High Index of Conservation Concern.	No	Removed from proposed coverage: lacks sufficient rationale to override species filter results. Considered for coverage on the June 2013 proposed Covered Species List but minimal potential for effects by Covered Activities; surveys and avoidance required on BLM lands.
Plant	Parish's Phacelia	*Phacelia parishii*	BLM	(CRPR 1B.1)	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Sufficient baseline data (*e.g.*, for species distribution modeling) and information to develop a conservation strategy (*e.g.*, present on West Mojave HCP Covered Species List). Two element occurrences possibly extirpated, and others with likelihood of renewable energy impacts based on location (near BLM-verified wind and solar project applications). High Index of Conservation Concern.	No	Removed from proposed coverage: lacks sufficient rationale to override species filter results. Considered for coverage on the June 2013 proposed Covered Species List, but known occurrences primarily located on BLM lands where surveys and avoidance would be required.
Plant	Parish's Alkali Grass	*Puccinellia parishii*	BLM	(CRPR 1B.1)	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Extreme statewide rarity (5 or fewer element occurrences). Known in the state from a single occurrence in a high solar resource area. Sufficient	No	Removed from proposed coverage: avoidance required

Taxonomic Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status[1]	State Status[2]	Species Filter A[3]	Species Filter B[4]	Species Filter C[5]	Index of Conservation Concern[6]	Present on June 2013 Proposed Covered Species List?	Brief Rationale for Proposed Coverage (June 2013)	Present on 2014 Draft DRECP Covered Species List?	Brief Rationale for Proposed Coverage in 2014 Draft DRECP
										baseline data and information to develop a conservation strategy (*e.g.*, present on the West Mojave HCP Covered Species List). High Index of Conservation Concern.		through wetlands CMAs.
Plant	Owens Valley Checkerbloom	*Sidalcea covillei*	BLM	SE (CRPR 1B.1)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Species Filters A, B, C. High Index of Conservation Concern.	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013 rationale.
Plant	Palmer's Jackass Clover	*Wislizenia refracta ssp. palmeri*	-	CSC	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Extreme statewide rarity (5 or fewer element occurrences). Sufficient baseline data (*e.g.*, relatively recent records) and information to develop a conservation strategy. High Index of Conservation Concern.	No	Removed from proposed coverage: lacks sufficient rationale to override species filter results. Considered for coverage on the June 2013 proposed Covered Species List. In Plan Area, restricted to dune communities. Addressed by dune CMAs.
Reptile / Amphibian	Arroyo Toad	*Anaxyrus californicus*	FE	CSC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Species Filters A, B, C. High Index of Conservation Concern.	No	Removed from proposed coverage: not likely to be affected by Covered Activities due to distribution. Distribution addressed by riparian CMAs. Take could be avoided through riparian setbacks.
Reptile / Amphibian	Tehachapi Slender Salamander	*Batrachoseps stebbinsi*	BLM / FS	ST	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	June 2013 recommendation reflects species filter results from mid-2013. Note that the use of late 2013-2014 CNDDB data and/or DFA/TA locations changed Species Filter B results from 'Yes' to 'No.' Modeled habitat overlaps DFAs/TAs.	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013 rationale.
Reptile / Amphibian	Agassiz's Desert Tortoise	*Gopherus agassizii*	FT	ST	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Species Filters A, B, C. High Index of Conservation Concern.	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013 rationale.
Reptile / Amphibian	Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard	*Phrynosoma mcallii*	BLM / FS	CSC	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Treated as a listed species because of Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Rangewide Management Strategy (2003). High Index of Conservation Concern.	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013 rationale.
Reptile / Amphibian	Mojave Fringe-Toed Lizard	*Uma scoparia*	BLM	CSC	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Driver species for sand habitats. Petitioned for listing in past, and likely to be petitioned in the future. High Index of Conservation Concern.	Yes	Proposed as Covered Species: 2014 rationale same as 2013 rationale.

Notes

[1]Federal Status

BCC: Bird of Conservation Concern

[2]State Status

CDF: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

[3]Species Filter A

Yes = CNDDB polygon layer (December 2012) for this taxon intersected the DRECP boundary polygon layer (December 2012) in GIS analysis;
= Includes manual overrides of 'No' taxa, where expert knowledge contradicted CNDDB data; and

BLM: Bureau of Land Management Sensitive
FC: Federal Candidate Species
FD: Federally Delisted
FE: Federally Endangered
FPD: Federal Proposed for Delisting
FPE: Federally Proposed for Listing as Endangered
FPT: Federally Proposed for Listing as Threatened
FS: Forest Service Sensitive
FT: Federally Threatened
FTSA: Federally Threatened, Similarity of Appearance
CRPR: California Rare Plant Rank
CSC: California Species of Concern
FP: Fully Protected
SCE: State Candidate for Listing as Endangered
SCT: State Candidate for Listing as Threatened
SD: California Delisted
SE: State Endangered
SR: State Rare
ST: State Threatened

[5]Species Filter C
Yes = Either or both of CDFW and USFWS had a December 2012 conservation ranking that indicated a taxon was critically imperiled to the point where further reduction in distribution and numbers would have significant negative effects on its viability and recovery.
Maybe = Likely to have a comparatively reduced conservation risk and are less likely to require immediate, specific conservation management actions to maintain viability than the 'Yes' taxa in this Species Filter.
Blank ('-') = Not enough information to determine which specific taxon is being referenced (and, therefore, species filter results).

[7]Peninsular Ranges DPS = No; Other DPS = Yes

= If taxon mentioned within public comments, but not present within CNDDB data used for analysis, Covered Species Group compared published distribution with DRECP boundary layer (December 2012). Any overlap is recorded here.
No = No CNDDB polygons for this taxon intersect any part of the DRECP boundary during GIS analysis; and
= If taxon mentioned within public comments, but not present within CNDDB data used for analysis, Covered Species Group compared published distribution with DRECP boundary layer (December 2012). No overlap is recorded here.
Blank ('-') = Not enough information to determine which specific taxon is being referenced (and, therefore, species filter results).

[4]Species Filter B
Yes = CNDDB polygon layer (December 2012) for this taxon intersected the DFA/TA polygon layer (December 2012) in GIS analysis; and

= If taxon mentioned within public comments, but not present within CNDDB data used for analysis, Covered Species Group compared published distribution with merged DFA/TA boundary layer (December 2012). Any overlap is recorded here.
No = No CNDDB polygons for this taxon intersect any part of the DFA/TA polygons during GIS analysis; and

= If taxon mentioned within public comments, but not present within CNDDB data used for analysis, Covered Species Group compared published distribution with merged DFA/TA boundary layer (December 2012). No overlap is recorded here.
Blank ('-') = Not enough information to determine which specific taxon is being referenced (and, therefore, species filter results).

[6]Index of Conservation Concern
Calculated from December 2012 conservation rankings by CDFW (CESA status), CNDDB, CNPS, and NatureServe.
Yes = More than half of these organizations recorded a 'High' ranking.
Maybe = Up to half of the organizations recorded a 'High' ranking.
No = None of the organizations recorded a 'High" ranking.
Blank ('-') = Not enough information to determine which specific taxon is being referenced (and, therefore, index results).

[8]Peninsular Ranges DPS = Yes; Other DPS = Maybe

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